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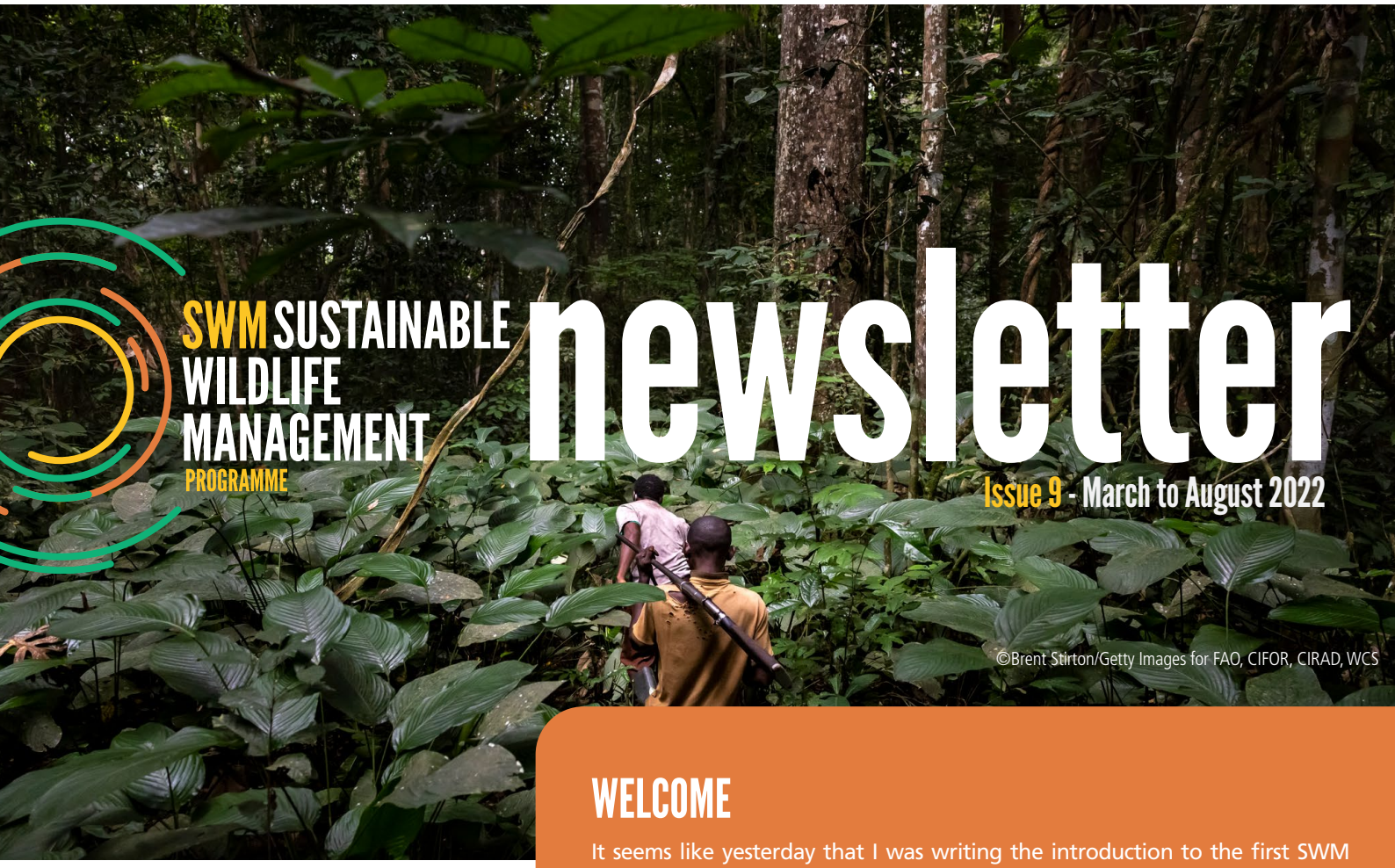

SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

newsletter

Issue 9 - March to August 2022

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WELCOME

It seems like yesterday that I was writing the introduction to the first SWM Programme Newsletter. Four years have passed, and August 2022 marked the start of Year 5 in our implementation phase at the 15 project sites.

We are now at a particularly exciting juncture! During the coming year we will finalize many studies, and assess the progress made with the theory of change models that underpin our work. A major thrust will be to prepare, publish and share a comprehensive series of knowledge products. This series will capture the key findings, innovations and recommendations from our efforts to achieve sustainable levels of hunting, wildlife conservation and improved food security.

In this issue of the Newsletter, you will find highlights from each project site, a short article on our capacity-building work, and a feature story on our field activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Newsletter also includes an engaging "SWM Talks" by Chantal Marijnissen, Head of Unit at Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission, which includes good news for the next chapter of the SWM Programme.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter, and please visit the SWM Programme latest news webpage to see our most recent articles, publications and videos.

Hubert Boulet
SWM Programme Coordinator

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HIGHLIGHTS

Summarized below are the highlights from each SWM Programme site for the period April 2022 to September 2022. They build on the highlights in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eight SWM Programme Newsletters.

Congo - Ouesso basin

Training on small ruminant breeding was provided to village communities, and a national workshop was held in Ouesso to refine and validate the local private veterinary services model. The first hunting governance groups were created. The Congo legal hub was launched at a workshop with government officials.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Ituri landscape

In collaboration with Village Enterprise, all business mentors, who will support the creation of small businesses as an alternative to hunting, have been recruited and are now training enthusiastic beneficiaries. Studies on hunting offtake, wildlife monitoring and basic necessities have been finalized. Low-tech games have been piloted to engage communities in discussions about hunting.

Gabon - Mulundu Department

The Government working group on hunting made technical proposals to improve the Gabonese law on wildlife management. Five new hunting associations were created, with ten communities now on the path to sustainable hunting. The Gabon legal hub and consolidated report, which presents the results of the diagnostic studies in Gabon, were launched.

Guyana - Rupununi Savannahs

Consultations were successfully completed to develop inland fisheries regulations with the national Fisheries Department. As part of the Wapichan Wiizi wildlife management plan, an important biocultural assessment was undertaken in close collaboration with the South Rupununi District Council and village representatives. The Guyana legal hub was launched.

Papua New Guinea - Bismarck Forest Corridor

With support from the SWM Programme, seven clans signed a legally binding conservation deed to protect their forest biodiversity from growing threats of over-exploitation. Small-scale poultry farming training sessions were completed, as well as a study on consumption and basic necessities.

Madagascar - Makira landscape

Two regional workshops were held, in Maroantsetra and Manditsara, to present the progress and to collect suggestions from community and government participants. Training was provided to communities on rights, especially customary rights, and duties related to hunting and fishing. A study on human-wildlife conflicts was conducted. The first tests to farm edible insects were launched.

Sahelian Wetlands Site - RESSOURCE Project

Chad, Egypt, Mali, Senegal and Sudan

Support was provided to the Sudanese administration in the successful Ramsar designation of the Inner Delta of Khor Abu Habil. Water lily experiments in Senegal were completed. The team continues to develop a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on identifying and counting waterbirds in North Africa and the Sahel.

Zambia and Zimbabwe - KaZa Transfrontier Conservation Area

In Zambia, the Nyawa chiefdom agreed to establish a Community Conservancy (CC). In Zimbabwe, plains game were successfully translocated to the Mucheni CC. New borehole sites to supply water for game were identified. Improved goat bucks delivered 15 kids. A media tour with nine journalists was successfully completed.

Botswana and Namibia - Community Conservancy project

In Botswana, the SWM Community Conservancy (CC) and Conservation International's Pro-Nature Project recruited a rural enterprise development manager to assist stakeholders in developing sustainable enterprises and attracting commercial partners. In Namibia, the team finalized a partnership between ENS Africa and the Environmental Lawyers Network of Namibia to conduct research on the national legal framework.

SPECIAL FOCUS - CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

"Capacity development, which encompasses a whole range of activities designed to empower individuals and institutions, has been at the heart of the SWM programme since its inception," explains Hubert Boulet, SWM Programme Coordinator. Our aim, he continues, "is to ensure that the local people, rural communities, and the organizations that we work with can sustainably manage their wildlife, hunting and natural resources."

Capacity development, including training to provide specific skills, cuts across all the SWM Programme work streams. Since 2018, a diverse range of materials and modules have been developed (e.g. interactive serious games, training manuals, video courses) and new ones are being prepared (e.g. a Massive Open Online Course). In addition, the site teams have organized many annual capacity-building sessions through farmer field schools, training of trainers and field exercises on diverse topics (e.g. legal reform, wildlife monitoring, anti-poaching, natural resource governance, livestock production, ethical research practices, gender mainstreaming, behaviour change).

COUNTRY STORY - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

"The Okapi Wildlife Reserve in Ituri Province has some magnificent scenery. It is home to traditional nomadic pygmy groups and threatened species of primates, birds and a large okapi population," explains Stella Asaha, the SWM Site Coordinator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Population growth, driven by mining opportunities and insecurity in the nearby provinces, is putting a lot of pressure on wildlife and traditional customs of Mbuti, Efe and Twa pygmy communities. For many species, hunting has already reached unsustainable levels.

The SWM Programme develops an innovative and comprehensive approach to improve the outreach and engagement of local communities including through games, the development of alternative proteins, and the creation of new opportunities for entrepreneurship in the region.

"The local communities are at the centre of all the project activities, whether it is to create and strengthen local governance groups, to produce poultry or farm insects as an alternative to wild meat, or develop alternative income-generating activities," emphasizes Stella Asaha. Find out more in this short video.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

We launched eight training videos to encourage poultry production

The SWM Programme legal hub now covers 9 countries

Our camera trap video received over 35,000 views on Twitter

EVENTS CORNER

Association of Tropical Biology Conference (ATBC)

10 – 14 July 2022

The SWM Programme team from Guyana organized and participated in two sessions at the ATBC in Cartagena, Colombia, one on wildmeat and health (click here) and one on biocultural approaches (click here).

IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC)

18–23 July 2022

At this **APAC** in Kigali (Rwanda), the SWM Programme's support for legal reforms was highlighted by Chantal Marijnissen (DG INTPA), while Lovy Rasolofomanana (Wildlife Conservation Society [WCS] Madagascar) and Robert Mwinyihali (WCS Democratic Republic of Congo) presented the One Health activities (click here).

23rd Session of FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)

22–26 August 2022

The 23rd session of the AFWC took place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, under the theme "The role of forests and wildlife in building resilience and recovery from crises and threats". The SWM Programme results were featured in the official session paper.

FROM THE FIELD

Impalas, kudus and zebras were successfully captured and translocated from near Bulawayo to the Mucheni Community Conservancy as part of the SWM Programme wildlife restocking work in Zimbabwe.

NEWSROOM

Recent SWM Programme news items include:

- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Forest News, "Empowering women through sustainable wildlife management: meet Susan George" (click here)
- FAO multimedia story, "Protecting wildlife and Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" (click here)
- CIRAD science in action, "Nyama-Nyama, a game that takes sustainable hunting seriously" (click here)
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) news, "More traditional clans in the Bismarck Forest Corridor of Papua New Guinea agree on legally protecting their forest lands together" (click here)
- Thomson Reuters Foundation, "Breeding bigger goats and raise incomes aims to help communities feed their families without wiping out local wildlife" (click here)
- Zimbabwe Business Times, "Create community conservancies for sustainable wildlife management" (click here)
- The Namibian, "Conservancies benefit from wildlife sustainability project" (click here).

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- World Migratory Bird Day
  8 October 2022
  www.worldmigratorybirdday.org
- International Day of Rural Women
  15 October 2022
  www.un.org/en/observances/rural-women-day
- Conference of the Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (COP-19)
  14–25 November 2022
  https://cites.org/eng/cop19
- Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-15)
  7–19 December 2022
  www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15

SWM TALKS

Chantal Marijnissen, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG-INTPA), European Commission

The SWM Programme plays an important role in contributing to the international dimension of the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the NaturAfrica initiative, although its geographic scope is broader. The overarching aim of the Biodiversity Strategy is to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems while enabling sustainable green development that brings multiple benefits to local communities and partner countries.

The SWM Programme contributes to this goal in various ways. For instance, at the recent IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress in Rwanda, I insisted on the importance of legal reforms to unlock opportunities for biodiversity conservation, and highlighted how the SWM Programme contributes to this. The programme's legal-hub is unique because it provides a single and easy access point to legal texts and analysis across all sectors relevant to sustainable wildlife management. Visitor statistics show that it is a much appreciated tool in developing countries. It can contribute to increasing public awareness and to supporting informed and participatory legal reform processes.

However, building scalable new models to conserve wildlife and improve food security takes time. We need to further develop the models tested by the SWM Programme and to disseminate and scale up the Programme's findings, results and approaches to achieve greater impacts. For this reason, the European Union seeks to provide additional funding to continue the SWM Programme until June 2029. During this period, we will further strengthen the participatory management of wildlife with local communities, reduce the demand for wild meat from non-sustainable sources, and operationalize a 'One Health' approach to assess and manage zoonotic risks.

FIND OUT MORE

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